



**West African Ornithological Society
Société d'Ornithologie de l'Ouest
Africain**



**Join the WAOS and support
the future availability of free
pdfs on this website.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/member.htm>

If this link does not work, please copy it to your browser and try again.

If you want to print this pdf, we suggest you begin on the next page (2) to conserve paper.

**Devenez membre de la
SOOA et soutenez la
disponibilité future des pdfs
gratuits sur ce site.**

<http://malimbus.free.fr/adhesion.htm>

Si ce lien ne fonctionne pas, veuillez le copier pour votre navigateur et réessayer.

Si vous souhaitez imprimer ce pdf, nous vous suggérons de commencer par la page suivante
(2) pour économiser du papier.

THE BIRDS OF THE MOLE GAME RESERVE.

Part 2.

Passerines.

W.G. Harvey & I.D. Harrison.

Buckley's Bush Lark Mirafra rufocinnamomea: Recorded on several dates from dry orchard bush especially where open grassy areas. Males heard singing. Two caught and skins taken.

African Pied Wagtail Motacilla alba: Single record of one flying along motel scarp on 24/8. We found this species much commoner in the forest belt of southern Ghana and our record seems somewhat north of the usual range.

Blue-headed Wagtail Motacilla flava: Recorded in 1968 dry season (November) by a Game Ranger. We did not see this species personally.

Plain-backed Pipit Anthus leucophrys: Recorded in late July (to 1/8) from open ground and lawns near motel.

Sudan Brown Babbler Turdoides plebejus: Commonly recorded in noisy parties in dry orchard bush and dry forest. These parties would move rapidly through the bush calling loudly and then stop suddenly and preen in complete silence. Three caught and one skin taken.

Blackcap Babbler Turdoides reinwardii: At least two of this forest species in thick riverine forest at Lovi on 3/8.

Oriole Babbler Hypergerus atriceps: Single record of one in thick bush in motel marsh on 21/8. According to Bannerman this is a local species restricted to thick forest. ***

Common Garden Bulbul Pycnonotus barbatus: Commonly recorded every day especially in thick orchard bush and forest. Particularly noisy at communal roosts which were usually in thick cover near water. Fourty caught and one skin taken. Most in moult. Wing: 90-102mm. Tail: 81-104mm. Bill: 15-19mm. Tarsus: 20-26mm. Weight: 32-41grms.

Leaflove Pyrrhurus scandens: Single record of one seen well in riverine forest at Mognori on 9/8. This is another forest species out of range.

Yellow-throated Leaflove: Pyrrhurus flavicollis: Recorded on several dates from large trees on scarp slopes and dry forest.

Simple Leaflove Pyrrhurus simplex: Recorded on several dates from large trees and thick orchard bush mainly in late July to mid-August. This is another forest species.

*** Although the scientific nomenclature in this and the following paper follows White (1960-65), the order in which the species have been placed follows Bannerman (1953). Hypergerus atriceps, for example, is placed with the warblers (Sylviinae) by White (op. cit.) Ed.

Grey Tit-babbler Myioparus plumbeus: Recorded on three dates from thick riverine forest at Lovi. One caught and skin taken.

Pale Flycatcher Bradornis pallidus: Commonly recorded on most days particularly from open bush near settlement and cultivated land. Several juveniles seen with adults. Fourteen caught and skins taken.

Black Flycatcher Melaenornis edolioides: Recorded on fifteen dates from riverine and dry forest mainly, but also from open bush. Usually in family parties. Two caught and skin taken.

Yellow-bellied Flycatcher Hyliota flavigaster: Recorded on eight dates from large trees in dry orchard bush and dry forest. Apparently rather shy and difficult to see but male heard to sing strongly when in hand. One caught but no skin taken.

Senegal Puffback Flycatcher Batis senegalensis: Fairly common, particularly in dry and wet orchard bush. Seen carrying food on 1/8. Eight caught and two skins (pair) taken.

Wattle-eye Platysteira cyanea: Commonly recorded from riverine forest especially at Lovi where it was more often heard than seen. Also in tall trees in orchard bush and dry forest. Five caught and two skins (pair) taken.

Blue Fairy Flycatcher Trochocercus longicauda: Recorded on many dates mainly from riverside habitats but later in August more records from open marsh and even dry forest and vegetable plots. Males distinctly territorial, often singing fiercely and posturing. Seen plunging in river at Lovi. Five caught and one skin taken.

Paradise Flycatcher Terpsiphone viridis: Recorded on several dates mainly from thick orchard bush and dry forest. Several different forms. Three caught and one skin taken.

Kurrichane Thrush Turdus pelios: Rather scarce. Although recorded on many dates only two to four pairs apparently involved. Distinct preference for tall trees near water or settlement. Four caught and one skin taken.

Red-tailed Chat Cercomela familiaris: A few pairs recorded on many days along motel scarp and on cultivated land. One pair was closely associated with motel buildings. One caught and skin taken.

White-fronted Blackchat Myrmecocichla albifrons: Recorded from dry orchard bush, usually around dead trees and scarp slopes on a number of dates. Often in pairs. One pair caught and skins taken.

White-crowned Robin-chat Cossypha albicapilla: Recorded on eight dates from thick cover in riverine forest. Several pairs holding territories along Lovi river. Three caught and skin taken.

Snowy-crowned Robin-chat Cossypha niveicapilla: Recorded on eight dates from thick cover but in dry forest and orchard bush as well as riverine forest. Five caught and one skin taken.

Rufous Cane-Warbler Acrocephalus rufescens: Views obtained of a pair almost certainly of this species in reeds at motel marsh on several dates in August. According to Fry (in list) and to Bannerman, this could be an easterly extension of range and a new record for Ghana.

Nuthatch Warbler Sylvietta brachyura: Recorded on five dates after 13/8 from dry orchard bush and scarp slope. Two caught and skins taken. Bannerman considers this to be a dry country species.

White-bellied Crombec Sylvietta virens: Single record of one in large trees in wet orchard bush on 13/8 with Nuthatch Warblers. This is apparently a forest species.

Grey-backed Eremomela Eremomela iseropygialis: Recorded on four dates, usually in small groups in dry orchard bush particularly from late August onwards. Compared with E. pusilla in the field. Considered by Bannerman to be another dry country species.

Green-backed Eremomela Eremomela pusilla: Very commonly recorded, especially from orchard bush and dry forest. Many family parties after mid-August. Twelve caught and skins taken.

Green-backed Camaroptera Camaroptera chloronota: Only records were of two immatures caught in dry forest. Skin taken. This is another forest species according to Bannerman.

Grey-backed Camaroptera Camaroptera brachyura: Recorded on several dates in thick cover of orchard bush and riverine forest. Nine caught and one skin taken.

Whistling Grass-Warbler Cisticola lateralis: Fairly common especially in thick cover in riverine and dry forest. Apparently nesting and juveniles caught after mid-August. Eleven caught and skins taken.

Rock-loving Grass-Warbler Cisticola aberti: Several pairs were found on the rock face of Damongo scarp. They were watched at close quarters on several occasions but none were caught. This is one of the few definite records for Ghana.

Singing Bush-Warbler Cisticola canans: Only one definite record - a bird caught and skin taken, from thick wet orchard bush near motel marsh.

Red-faced Grass-Warbler Cisticola erythropis: Found in wet marsh and associated bushes. Several seen and heard in motel marsh. Three caught and skins taken.

Rufous Grass-Warbler Cisticola galactotes: Another marsh-loving cisticola, favouring good cover near open marsh. Fairly common in suitable habitats at motel area and Lovi. Five caught and skins taken.

Striped Grass-Warbler Cisticola natalensis: Favoured open grassland, but never swamp, formed its habitat. Sang very distinctively from vantage point - a tree top, for example. Two caught and skin taken.

Fraser's Rufous Grass-Warbler Cisticola pufa: This was probably the commonest cisticola, being widespread in dry orchard bush where there was adequate grass cover. We originally misidentified this species as

C. brachyptera but the correction made by the British Museum from the skins we collected makes this an even more interesting record, since C. rufa is rather local according to Bannerman. Nine caught and skins taken.

Red-Pate Grass Warbler Cisticola ruficeps: Favoured well-vegetated dry orchard bush with long grass. Often associated with C. rufa. Five caught and skins taken.

Red-wing Warbler Prinia erythroptera: Recorded on eight dates from thick cover in orchard bush and dry forest. Shy. Nine caught and one skin taken. In moult.

Moustached Scrub-Warbler Sphenococcus mentalis: Fairly common in areas of thick cover and long grass in wet orchard bush, often on margins of riverine or dry forest. Although a distinctive songster and a large and aggressive holder of territory, we found this species remarkable wary and difficult to see. Three caught and one skin taken.

West African Prinia Prinia subflava: Fairly common in thick, well-grassed orchard bush. Tended to be overlooked. Nine caught and one skin taken.

European Swallow Hirundo r. rustica: Single record of an adult over motel marsh on 30/8 with large gathering of Hirundines and swifts. Many swallows sp. moving south through Ghana during early September were probably of this species.

Gambian Swallow Hirundo r. lucida: Very common, recorded every day over marsh and dry bush. Large evening gatherings particularly in late August over motel marsh. One caught and skin taken. Fry (in litt) thinks this may be an extension of range eastwards but according to Vol. V of Bannerman it is definitely found in Ghana.

Pied-wing Swallow Hirundo leucosoma: Two records for late July and early August of up to three birds near water at Mognori and the motel.

Wire-tailed Swallow Hirundo smithii: Recorded on eight dates over open water or marsh with maximum of four on 20/8.

Mosque Swallow Hirundo senegalensis: Common over motel marsh and at Lovi over wet grassland. Appeared regularly at 8.00 a.m. and fed over marsh in small groups. Less regular from late August. This is usually a swallow of the dry country further north or near Accra.

Gordon's Rufous-chested Swallow Hirundo semirufa: Recorded on seventeen dates after early August, mainly over open water marsh. Two caught and one skin taken.

Lesser Striped Swallow Hirundo abyssinica: Recorded on eight dates over grass bush and clearing, especially near Lovi.

Red-throated Rock-Martin Hirundo fuligula: Recorded on several dates from Damongo scarp in late August.

Fanti Rough-wing Swallow Psalidoprogne obscura: Found particularly at Lovi where it favoured the vicinity of the river and grass clearings in forest. Also a few seen near motel. Considered distinctly local by Bannerman.

Square-tailed Rough-wing Swallow Falidoprogne nitens: Single record of this rare forest species from Lovi river on 4/8. It was flying low over Lovi river in a particularly shady and overgrown stretch. There were Fantail Rough-Wing Swallows present for comparison.

Red-shouldered Cuckoo-Shrike Campephaga phoenicea: Recorded on many dates especially from open dry forest and large trees in orchard bush. Three caught and skins taken.

White-breasted Cuckoo-Shrike Coracina pectoralis: Recorded on eight dates from large trees in orchard bush and dry forest.

Glossy-backed Drongo Dicrurus adsimilis: Very common in dry orchard bush but also seen in dry and riverine forest. Aggressive to all other species including large parties of Babblers. Three caught and one skin taken. In moult.

Sharpe's Square-tailed Drongo Dicrurus ludwigii: Recorded on five dates from two sites in thick riverine forest - Lovi and Larabanga. Strictly confined to riverside apparently. Bannerman considers this an extremely local forest species.

Long-crested Helmet-Shrike Prionops plumata: Common in open orchard bush and near settlement. Travelled in parties of up to 21, calling noisily. Three caught but no skins taken.

West African Fiscal Shrike Junco collaris: Only recorded on five dates from thick cover in wet orchard bush.

Long-tailed Bush Shrike Corvinella corvina: Common in dry orchard bush. Parties of up to 13 recorded. Pair apparently with nest near motel.

Barbary Shrike Merula barberus: Common in thick cover near water but very difficult to see. Bannerman considers this a local semi-arid species.

Gambian Buff-back Shrike Dryocopus gambensis: Common in thick cover near marsh or in dry forest. Obtrusive near settlement. Six caught and skins taken.

Brubru Nilaus afer: Recorded on nine dates in dry orchard bush near cultivation. Four caught and skins taken.

Black-Crowned Tchagra Tchagra senegalensis: Common in thick cover in orchard bush and near marsh. Males very territorial - displays watched on several occasions. Four caught and skin taken.

Little Blackcap Tchagra Tchagra minutus: Recorded on four dates, always near water in wet Orchard Bush. One caught and skin taken.

Orange-breasted Bush Shrike Malacoptus sulphureopectus: Recorded on three dates from thick wet bush near riverine forest at Lovi. Two caught and one skin taken.

Malacoptus blanchoti: Recorded on ten dates in orchard bush although wary and unobtrusive. Seen to catch and kill a lizard on 9/8. One caught.

African Golden Oriole Oriolus auratus: Single record of a male seen well in tall trees in riverine forest at Lovi on 26/8.

White-shouldered Black Tit Parus leucomelas: Common in orchard bush, often in small parties. Seven caught and skin taken.

West African Penduline Tit Romiz parvulus: Single record of one in wet orchard bush near motel on 20/8.

Pied Crow Corvus albus: Three sightings of two birds between 26/7 and 9/8 over motel. We only found this species common south of Kumasi.

Amethyst Starling Cinnyricinclus leucogaster: Single record of a male in overgrown cultivated land near motel on 23/8. This bird was prematurely south of its usual range according to Bannerman.

Short-tailed Glossy Starling Lamprotornis chalcurus: Probable examples of this species were seen on several dates near cultivated land at Mognori with a certain flock of twenty feeding on flying insects over open grass at Lovi on 2-3/8.

Purple Glossy Starling Lamprotornis purpureus: Recorded on many dates from cultivated areas and open orchard bush. Felt to be the commonest although positive identification was not always possible. One caught and skin taken.

Yellow White-eye Zosterops senegalensis: Recorded on ten dates. A rather inconspicuous and scarce species preferring large trees in orchard bush. Two caught and skin taken. In moult.

Beautiful Long-tailed Sunbird Nectarinia pulchella: One of the three commonest sunbirds, recorded almost every day, especially from wet orchard bush and bushes near water. Two occupied nests found. Thirteen caught and skins taken. Bannerman considers this to be a dry country species.

Pygmy Long-tailed Sunbird Anthreptes platura: Only three records, all after mid-August. Usually near water with other sunbirds. According to Bannerman this species is more typical of orchard bush than N. pulchella.

Copper Sunbird Nectarinia cuprea: Another common species favouring all bush habitats but avoiding large trees. Thought to be breeding with males very territorial - for example four males singing in one square foot of a bush on 16/8. Thirteen caught and skins taken.

Splendid Sunbird Nectarinia coccinogaster: Rather a scarce species, recorded on only four dates, mainly from dry and riverine forest.

Scarlet-chested Sunbird Nectarinia senegalensis: The third most common sunbird, favouring larger trees and thick cover, usually near water. Less sociable than N. pulchella and N. cuprea. Proved breeding. Twenty-five caught and skins taken.

• Wing: 65 - 69 mm. Tail: 45 - 52 mm. Bill: 22 - 26 mm. Tarsus: 16.5 - 19 mm.
Weight: 7.5 - 12 gms.

♀ Wing: 59 - 63 mm. Tail: 37 - 44 mm. Bill: 20 - 24 mm. Tarsus: 15 - 17 mm.
Weight: 7.5 - 12 gms.

Blue-throated Brown Sunbird Nectarinia cyanolaema: Single record of a male in riverine forest at Lovi on 12/8. This is yet another forest species according to Bannerman.

Nile Spotted Creeper Salpornis spilota: Recorded on eight dates with up to two together. Usually from open bush with scattered large trees and old timber near motel. One caught but no skin taken.

Yellow-fronted Canary Serinus mozambicus: Certainly one of the commonest species and a favourite cage bird in the area. Favoured orchard bush especially near cultivated land and open grassy areas. Very sociable, mixing with weavers etc. Forty-eight caught and skins taken.

Wing: 60 - 67 mm. Tail: 34 - 47 mm. Bill: 8 - 13 mm. Tarsus: 10 - 16 mm.
Weight: 7 - 13 gms.

Cabanis' Bunting Emberiza cabanisi: Recorded on six dates from dry orchard bush, usually near cultivation. Two caught and skins taken.

Nigerian Little Bunting Emberiza forbesi: Single record of one in orchard bush below motel scarp on 22/8. According to Bannerman this species is restricted to the semi-arid belt north of 12°N.

Grey-headed Sparrow Passer griseus: Only recorded from the reserve on a few dates. Each village held a few pairs and we found a pair at Lovi Camp. More surprisingly, we found at least one pair in wet orchard bush near the motel marsh on several dates. Two caught and skins taken.

Sparrow Weaver Ploceopasser superciliosus: A very common species recorded every day particularly from the neighbourhood of settlement and cultivation. Never seen in thick woodland. Nest-building record on 5/9. Ten caught and one skin taken.

Slender-billed Weaver Ploceus luteolus: Fairly regularly noted, usually near water. Pair feeding young in nest at Lovi from 2/8 - 8/8. Seven caught and skins taken.

Niger Black-headed Weaver Ploceus melanocephalus: At least two pairs in full breeding plumage found near motel marsh. We caught and took skins of one pair for confirmation, since, according to Bannerman, this species should be restricted to the Niger valley.

Vitellino Masked Weaver Ploceus velatus: Pairs recorded on three dates in the motel marsh.

Village Weaver Ploceus cucullatus: Apart from large colonies in Damongo there were smaller ones in Mognori and Samolo camps. The birds were rarely recorded away from their colonies except for two sightings from the motel marsh.

Swainson's Spectacled Weaver Ploceus nigricollis: We found several pairs of this weaver in riverine forest at Levi where they formed small dispersed colonies, building nests high in the riverside trees. When the nest sites were approached the males emitted a delicate bubbling call, while the general behaviour was rather secretive. Single bird (F) was caught in motel marsh and skin taken.

Red-winged Anaploetes Malimbus rubriroops: Recorded on seven dates, always in dry or riverine forest. A rather shy species, keeping to the upper canopy.

Red-bellied Weaver Malimbus scutatus: Two definite records of males in full breeding dress on 21/8 and 3/9. Both associated with large trees on margins of dry and riverine forest. Several parties of large dark weavers were recorded at dusk at Levi flying over the forest. Although certain identification was not possible it was felt that they could be this species. Bannerman considers this to be a forest species.

Red-headed Diocoh Quolea erythrops: Apart from a party on marsh grass at Mognori on the 4/8, all the other records concern single pairs. Closely associated with open marshy areas with plenty of grass. Five caught and skins taken.

Fire-crowned Bishop Euploetes hordeaceus: Less common than E. orix or E. afra but recorded from several areas. Favoured open grassy areas often near water but always with bushes for song posts. Two caught and skins taken.

Orange Bishop Euploetes orix: A common species, favouring wet grassy areas, but also recorded from cultivated plots and dry grass in orchard bush, especially up to mid-August. Territorial behaviour became more obvious after mid-August with few flocks seen. At the motel marsh seven (M) held territories in 300 strip. Up to six (F) seen with one male. Thirty-seven caught and skins taken.

♂ Wing: 59 - 66 mm. Tail: 31 - 44 mm. Bill: 11 - 15 mm. Tarsus: 17 - 22 mm.
Weight: 12 - 19 gms.

♀ Wing: 55 - 63 mm. Tail: 27 - 40 mm. Bill: 12 - 16 mm. Tarsus: 17 - 20 mm.
Weight: 12 - 19 gms.

Yellow Bishop Euploetes afer: Recorded every day but restricted to the environs of water. Particularly common on motel marsh where large flock of about 50 non-breeders seen on several dates. Maximum of 8 adult (M) caught together. Sixty-four caught and skins taken.

♂ Wing: 55 - 59 mm. Tail: 26 - 36 mm. Bill: 12 - 15 mm. Tarsus: 15 - 19 mm.
Weight: 10 - 17 gms.

♀ Wing: 53 - 60 mm. Tail: 29 - 36 mm. Bill: 12 - 15.5 mm. Tarsus: 15 - 19 mm.
Weight: 10 - 17 gms.

Yellow-mantled Wychah Euplectes macrourus: Common in open grass areas, especially near water, although sometimes in dry open bush near roads. Apparently breeding - territorial display watched in heavy rain on 31/8. Non-breeders mixed with non-breeding Euplectes species on motel marsh.

Bronze Mannikin Lonchura cucullata: Extremely common, especially near settlement and cultivation, but flocks also encountered in dry orchard bush and in marsh grasses with other estrildines. Found breeding and also roosting in nests in trees near settlement. Sixty caught and skins taken.

Wing: 45 - 50 mm. Tail: 21 - 41 mm. Bill: 9 - 13 mm. Tarsus: 11 - 20 mm.
Weight: 7 - 10.5 gms.

Red-winged Pytolia Pytolia phoenicoptera: Recorded on six dates with up to two pairs seen. Favoured open grassy areas near water. This is apparently a rare species for Ghana. Six caught and two skins taken.

Blue-billed Firefinch Lagonosticta rubricata: Single record on 21/7 of bird feeding with L. rufopieta and tame Guinea Fowl at Levi.

Black-bellied Firefinch Lagonosticta rara: Recorded on five dates, involving at least three pairs. Usually near cultivation or wet bush. Four caught (3m) and skins taken of one pair. This may be a new record for Ghana.

African Firefinch Lagonosticta senegala: With L. rufopieta the commonest firefinch, particularly favouring cultivated land near settlement. Less common after mid-August. Fifteen caught and skins taken.

Bar-breasted Firefinch Lagonosticta rufopieta: Probably the commonest firefinch, being found in dry bush and marsh as well as near cultivated land. Often formed large flocks with other estrildine weavers. Eighteen caught and skins taken.

Lavender Firefinch Estrilda caeruleoens: Recorded on thirteen dates, mainly from dry orchard bush, although sometimes near marsh and cultivation. Tended to be more solitary (never seen in more than pairs) and less attached to cultivated plots than other estrildines. Five caught and skin taken.

Black-faced Firefinch Estrilda larvata: Recorded on twelve dates from cultivated or marsh land. Often associated with other estrildines. Nine caught and skins taken.

Orange-checked Waxbill Amandava subflava: One of the commonest estrildines, recorded every day. Favoured vicinity of settlement and cultivated ground, although often seen in marsh grass and dry bush. Twenty-five caught and skins taken.

Wing: 40 - 48 mm. Tail: 38 - 50 mm. Bill: 9 - 12 mm. Tarsus: 13 - 17 mm.

Weight: 6 - 9.5 gms.

White-checked Olive Warbler Nesocharis capistrata: Single record of an individual feeding in riverine forest at Lovi (15/8). Tit-like feeding habits in upper canopy were noted.

Red-checked Cordon-Bleu Estrilda benegala: Again, a very common estrildine, mixing with other species in large flocks on cultivated land and marsh grass. Less common in dry bush. Sixty-six caught and skins taken.

M Wing: 50 - 54 mm. Tail: 38 - 62 mm. Bill: 9 - 12 mm. Tarsus: 13 - 17 mm.

Weight: 8 - 12 gms.

F Wing: 50 - 53 mm. Tail: 46 - 61 mm. Bill: 9 - 12 mm. Tarsus: 14 - 19 mm.

Weight: 8 - 12 gms.

*** Senegal Combassou Hypochora chalybeata: Identified on six dates, but only in the field. Preferred open areas near cultivation at the motel and at Lovi. This may well be a first record for Ghana.

Wilson's Dusky Combassou Hypochora wilsoni: The adult male of a pair of this species was caught at Lovi in an area of marsh grass. Our identification was confirmed by the British Museum which makes this the first definite record for Ghana.

Cameroon Combassou Hypochora cameronensis: Again a sole record of an adult male taken at Lovi from the grass marsh. Our identification was confirmed by the British Museum and this is another new record for Ghana. It is extraordinary that we should find two new combassous for the country in the same small marsh within a few days of each other, although of course H. cameronensis is found in Sierra Leone.

Pin-tailed Wydah Vidua macroura: A common species, recorded every day. Favoured short grass near settlement road margins. Associated with other estrildines but more often in small parties with one adult male and up to eight females and immatures. Fifteen caught and skins taken.

Broad-tailed Paradise Wydah Vidua orientalis: Moderately common along roadsides south of the Reserve, but we only found two pairs in the reserve itself. Both were seen in areas of marsh grass but with associated tall trees. They often flew long distances at considerable heights above the ground, unlike V. macroura. This is another dry country species according to Bannerman.

*** White (1960-65) recognises only one species of Combassou, Vidua chalybeata. For clarity, in this section and in the discussion which follows, Bannerman's (1963) treatment of the combassous has been retained. Ed.

CONCLUSIONS

223 species were identified in the Reserve by the Expedition and a total of 802 birds of 101 species were caught. Skins of most of the latter species were taken and now form a collection at Samole Motel. Despite this, many of the records rest solely on field identification. Full descriptions were usually made but for some species an element of doubt of varying magnitude remains. Although for some of the rarer birds this is unfortunate we felt it worthwhile including all our observations, whether certain or only probable, so that they exist on record for support or refutation by later, more experienced observers.

Our work in Mole does, despite this reservation, add something to the previous knowledge of the area. According to Bannerman some fourteen of the species are southern forest species and twelve are more northern dry country species. The forest species were invariably found in the riverine forest habitat, suggesting an extension north from the southern forest along the river valleys. The occurrence of dry country species illustrates how difficult it is to define the range of many West African birds. In most cases their occurrence in the Reserve is merely an extension south of 1 - 2 which in view of indistinct vegetation boundaries from north to south is probably not a significant extension.

A number of species, some of which may well be new records for Ghana, do however, display interesting extensions of range. It seems probable that the records of Circus baudouini (Baoudouin's Harrier Eagle), Ploceus melanocephalus (Niger Black-headed Weaver) and the three Combassous, (Hypochora chaybeata, H. wilsoni, and H. cameronensis) represent westward extension, and that of Acrocephalus rufescens (Rufous Cane Warbler) and possibly Hirundo r. lucida (Gambian Swallow), an eastward extension. Identification of the weaver, Ploceus melanocephalus and the three Combassous has been confirmed by the British Museum who now have the skins. The record of Acrocephalus rufescens can only be considered probable as specimens were not caught. The following records may also be new for Ghana: Neophron perenopterus (Egyptian Vulture), Morops bullocki var. Boloslavski (Red-throated Bee-eater, Golden-throated variety) and Lagonosticta rara (Black-bellied Fire-finch). Bubo lacteus (Milky Eagle Owl), Cisticola rufa, and Pytilia phoenicoptera (Red-winged Pytilia) are also interesting since they are considered rare for Ghana.

In conclusion it must be emphasised that not only were we restricted to a small part of the Reserve but our records only refer to two months in the Wet Season. More extensive travel during other seasons would undoubtedly add to the list. We can only hope to have laid the basis for further work in an area rich in a variety of species. Even this we could not have done without the help of the Ghana Department of Game and Wildlife - in particular Mr. E.O.A. Asibey, the chief Game and Wildlife officer - and the Oxford University Exploration Club to whom we would like to express our gratitude.

REFERENCES

BANNERMAN, D.A. (1933 - 1951): Birds of Tropical West Africa.
London: Oliver and Boyd.

Fry, C.H.: (In Litt.)

RARE SPECIES

- Neophron perenopterus. (Egyptian Vulture). Probably new for Ghana.
- Circus boudouini. (Boudouin's Harrier Eagle). Rare.
- Tringa totanus. (Redshank). Rare inland migrant.
- Numenius phaeopus. (Whimbrel). Rare inland migrant.
- Bubo lacteus. (Milky Eagle Owl). Rare.
- Clamator jacobinus. (Pied Cuckoo). Rare.
- Merops bullocki var. Bolcsalavski. (Red-throated Bee-eater - Golden Throated variety). Rare. Probably a new record for Ghana.
- Cisticola aberrans. (Rock Loving Grass Warbler). Rare.
- Cisticola rufa. (Fraser's Rufous Grass-Warbler). Rare.
- Hirundo rustica lucida. (Gambian Swallow). Rare.
- Ploceus melanocephalus. (Niger Black-headed Weaver). Probably new for Ghana.
- Pytolia phoenicoptera. (Red-winged Pytolia). Rare.
- Lagonosticta rara. (Black-bellied Fire-finch). Probably a new record for Ghana.
- Hypochera chalybeata. Probably new for Ghana.
- Hypochera wilsoni. Probably new for Ghana.
- Hypochera camerunensis. Probably new for Ghana.

FOREST SPECIES

- Accipiter castanilius. (Chestnut-flanked Goshawk).
Turtur afor. (Red-billed Wood-dove).
Poiccephalus robustus. (Brown-necked Parrot).
Halyon malimbica. (Blue-breasted Kingfisher).
Turdoides reinwardi. (Blackcap Babbler).
Hypergerus atriceps. (Oriole Babbler).
Pyrrhurus scandens. (Leaflove).
Pyrrhurus simplex. (Simple Leaflove).
Motacilla alba aguimp. (African Pied Wagtail).
Sylvietta virous. (White-bellied Crombec).
Camaroptera chloronota. (Green-backed Camaroptera).
Psalidoprogne nitens. (Square-tailed Rough-Wing Swallow).
Dicrurus ludwigii. (Sharpe's Square-tailed Drongo).
Nocthrinia cyanolaema. (Blue-throated Brown Sunbird).
Malimbus scutatus. (Red-vented Weaver).

DRY COUNTRY SPECIES

- Threskiornis aethiopicus. (Sacred Ibis).
Streptopelia decipiens. (Niger Mourning Dove).
Halyon leucocephala. (Grey-headed Kingfisher).
Merops nubicus. (Carmine Bee-eater).
Sylvietta brachyura. (Nuthatch Warbler).
Eromomela griseoflava. (Grey-backed Eromomela).
Hirundo senegalensis. (Mosque Swallow).
Laniarius barbarus. (Barbary Shrike).
Cinnyricinclus leucogaster. (Amethyst Starling).
Nectarina pulchella. (Beautiful Long-tailed Sunbird).
Emberiza forbesii. (Nigerian Little Bunting).
Steganura orientalis. (Broad-tailed Paradise Wyaah).